

**CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, March 24, 2008**  
**The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A**

**The following members were present:**

Alex Berger	Judy Goodman
Mimi Deem	Omri Praiss
Lori Elliott	Rich Yawitz

**Excused/Absent**

Dick Hyde  
Jill Indovino

**Also Present:**

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Rosemary Hardy

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the October 22, 2007 meeting were approved as read.

**Director's Report**

The ice rink season went very well. Patrons enjoyed the upgrades and enhancements. There was good attendance especially the evening of All that Glitters. At a future meeting we will have an ice rink season report. The ice rink project is currently on hold since the possibility of completing a new design is so costly and because we are still searching for a new City Manager.

The Dog Park sub-committee met in the fall and, while there was interest in continuing to explore this option for the city, it was placed on hold due to other demands in the city.

The Hanley House Council completed their work in December. Ms. DeForrest noted that Ms Hardy who served on the Hanley House Council was in attendance this evening to give an update about the house and to tell the Commission she is interested in serving on their board. The Hanley House will re-open in May. Some of the work on the house will be completed this year because we do have some money in the budget for improvements and we have received several small grants that will help subsidize the costs as well. One of the large projects will be to replace the roof.

The Shaw Park Aquatic Center survey was distributed to members. Overall members are happy with how the pool was run. They also noted that the prices are good. The non-resident members were a bit unhappy with the cost of their memberships. Some of those surveyed commented on the fact that they would like to have more shaded areas. There is money budgeted for more umbrellas so this will provide additional shade for everyone.

April 26 is the Earth Day celebration in Shaw Park. A band will play from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a poster contest, scavenger hunts and Pulaski Bank will be giving out savings bonds as rewards. The CHS Green Group is assisting with the event.

The St. Louis County Health Department has changed aquatic codes. Ms. DeForrest will have an audit completed in April to make sure everything is up to code with our pools. The cost of the audit is \$200 per pool and it is well worth the cost.

We did receive the grant for the Ruth Park Golf course. It will open in late May or early June. Residents and members of the Center of Clayton will receive member rates at the Golf Club.

The Honeysuckle project we are working on with Clayton School District is going well. The goal is to open the area to the public so we could have a nature trail that is used by the entire community.

We have had some staff changes. We replaced the Assistant Fitness Supervisor and have made an offer to a new Fitness Supervisor. We hope to have that person on board within the next two weeks. We also have a new person in the position of Assistant Membership Services Supervisor. Further, we have added a new position, which is a Community Resource Coordinator. This person will coordinate efforts with the Century Foundations and will help establish a fundraising effort for the Hanley House.

We have seen some impact on membership since the Highway 40 shut down. It is mainly with adult corporate memberships. This trend is also noticeable in other communities such as Richmond Heights. Our revenue is only down 3% but expenses are also down 6%. We have seen an increase in family memberships this year. Staff will continue to monitor this.

### **Role of the Commission**

The Parks and Recreation Commission is currently lacking members and some member's terms are expired. Ms. DeForrest is waiting to hear from a couple of members to see if they are interested in serving another term. We do have some new applicants however the BOA is holding off on appointing anyone at this time. Mr. Berger explained that the reason for this is because the BOA is currently looking at redefining Boards and Commissions across the board. What we do know for sure is that the Commission will continue as it is part of the charter.

Ms. DeForrest distributed a handout which stated exactly what the charge of the the Commission is as it was established.

Ms. Goodman stated that at the last BOA meeting they discussed having individuals from diverse age groups who use the Center of Clayton on the Commission. This will assist us in addressing all the needs in the community.

Ms. DeForrest explained that it is a bit of a challenge to set agendas because we do not have a chairperson. The Commission then noted that they would like Ms. DeForrest to explain how she sees the Commission evolving. Further, everyone agreed that it would be very useful to have a standard agenda which may include items such as quarterly budget, a look ahead at the Parks and Recreation calendar, new initiatives, and the things we are working on for the Master Plan.

### **Master Plan Update**

The Commission discussed in detail their plans to proceed with what needs to be accomplished in the Master Plan. The Commission has had numerous discussions about the Master Plan but have not had the opportunity discuss in detail how they will prioritize their objectives.

Mr. Berger suggested that we take what we have from the Master Plan and determine what needs to take place in 1 year and then in 3-5 years. Also, prioritize from quarterly to annually while determining where we are and where we are going and what the planned outcome is. Everyone agreed that we have to put more energy into the Master Plan and make sure the ball is always rolling. For instance, there needs to be much more action taking place instead of primarily having discussion sessions. Once all of the projects are prioritized budget numbers can be attached to these items. We will determine what amount of money we actually have for projects and then move forward with it or if there are not enough funds we will move on to another project that is less expensive to complete.

Ms. DeForrest distributed a form she created that would help the Commission score and evaluate projects. Mr. Praiss stated he thought prioritizing projects in that fashion would make things more difficult and the process would become way more tedious than necessary.

In summary, Ms. DeForrest will take the 12 primary projects from the Master Plan and change the spreadsheet so the Commission can prioritize the projects from there. She will also have staff assist her by telling her how they would rank the items discussed in the Master Plan. The Commission will also take into consideration how the community feels when prioritizing these projects. The designs will be connected to the implementation of the Master Plan.

**Old Business / New Business**

Ms. Hardy from the Hanley House Council provided the Commission with a Hanley House update. She also stated she would like for the Commission to consider her as a candidate for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Ucinski